

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A nutritional composition for restoring or promoting ~~an~~ a healthy and optimal microbiota ecosystem in humans or animals, ~~which comprises~~ comprising at least one amino acid ~~being~~ selected ~~in~~ from the group consisting of hydroxyl amino acids, sulfur-containing amino acids, ~~or~~ heterocyclic amino acids, ~~or~~ and their derivatives, in an amount ~~efficient~~ effective to favor the growth and the balance of bacterial microbiota.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The composition according to claim 1, which comprises at least one amino acid ~~being~~ selected ~~in~~ from the group consisting of Threonine, Serine, Proline, ~~or~~ Cysteine, ~~or~~ and their derivatives.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which is formulated for human or companion animal consumption and/or administration, ~~such as a pharmaceutical, a galenic, a nutritional, a food or petfood product or an infant formula.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended) The composition according to ~~any of preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the amino acid is in ~~the~~ a form selected from the group consisting of free amino acids, ~~or~~ amino acids hydrolysates of different source of animal or plant proteins, ~~or~~ protein source enriched in form of synthetic peptides, ~~or with~~ free amino acids, ~~or~~ entire proteins from natural source ~~or~~ synthetically peptides, ~~or~~ and combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The composition according to ~~any of preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~which comprises~~ comprising at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of Serine in an amount of about 0.07 to 0.35 g/kg body weight/day; ~~or~~ Proline in an amount of about 0.07 to 0.3 g/kg body weight/day, ~~or~~ Threonine in an amount of about 0.04 to 0.20 g/kg body weight/day ~~or~~ and Cysteine in an amount of about 0.03 to 0.15 g/kg body weight/day, ~~or their mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended) A method for the preparation of a nutritional composition or medicament intended for restoring or promoting a healthy and optimal microbiota ecosystem

in humans or pets comprising the use Use of at least one amino acid or a mixture of amino acids in an amount efficient to favor the growth of bacterial microbiota, ~~for the preparation of a nutritional composition or medicament intended for restoring or promoting a healthy and optimal microbiota ecosystem in humans or pets.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended) A method for the preparation of a composition or medicament intended for restoring or maintaining the integrity of gut barrier in frail population, such as infant, elderly or pet that present fragile ecosystem comprising the use Use of at least one amino acid or a mixture of amino acids in an amount efficient to favor the growth of bacterial microbiota ~~for the preparation of a composition or medicament intended for restoring or maintaining the integrity of gut barrier in frail population, such as infant, elderly or pet that present fragile ecosystem.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended) A method for stimulating the immune defenses and reduce allergy in individuals, such as infant, elderly or pet that present fragile ecosystem comprising administering a composition comprising Use of at least one amino acid or a mixture of amino acids in an amount efficient to favor the growth of bacterial microbiota for the preparation of a composition or medicament to one having a fragile ecosystem ~~intended for stimulating the immune defenses and reduce allergy in individuals, such as infant, elderly or pet that present fragile ecosystem.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended) The method Use according to ~~one of claims claim 6 to 8,~~ wherein the amino acid is selected from ~~in~~ the group consisting of hydroxyl amino acids, sulfur-containing amino acids and ~~or~~ heterocyclic amino acids, ~~in particular Threonine, Serine, Proline or Cysteine, or their derivatives.~~

Claim 10 (currently amended) The method Use according to ~~one of claims claim 6 to 9,~~ wherein the amino acid is in the form selected from the group consisting of free amino acids, ~~or~~ amino acids hydrolysates of different source of animal or plant proteins, ~~or~~ protein source enriched in form of synthetic peptides, ~~or~~ with free amino acids, ~~or~~ entire proteins from natural source or synthetically peptides, or combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended)      The method Use according to ~~any of preceding~~  
~~claims claim 6~~, which comprises an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Serine in  
an amount of about 0.07 to 0.35 g/kg body weight/day; ~~or~~ Proline in an amount of about 0.07 to  
0.3 g/kg body weight/day, ~~or~~ Threonine in an amount of about 0.04 to 0.20 g/kg body weight/day  
~~or and~~ Cysteine in an amount of about 0.03 to 0.15 g/kg body weight/day, ~~or their mixtures~~  
thereof.

Claim 12 (currently amended)      A method for restoring or promoting ~~an~~ a healthy  
and optimal microbiota ecosystem in humans or pets, which comprises administering to the  
individual a nutritional composition comprising at least one amino acid in an amount efficient to  
favor the growth and balance of bacterial microbiota and to reduce pathogens proliferation and  
risks of translocations.

Claim 13 (currently amended)      A method for restoring or maintaining the integrity  
of gut barrier in frail population, such as infant, elderly or pet that present fragile ecosystem,  
which comprises administering to ~~the~~ an individual having a fragile ecosystem a nutritional  
composition comprising at least one amino acid in an amount efficient to favor the growth of  
bacterial microbiota.

Claim 14 (currently amended)      A method for stimulating the immune defenses  
and/or reduce allergy in humans or pets, which comprises administering to ~~the~~ an individual a  
nutritional composition comprising at least one amino acid in an amount efficient to favor the  
growth of bacterial microbiota.

Claim 15 (new)      The composition according to claim 1, which is in the form  
selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutical, a galenic, a nutritional, a food or petfood  
product and an infant formula.